



FACTSHEET

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The LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN
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Expiration Date for EC and Floodproofing Certificate Extended to September 30, 2015

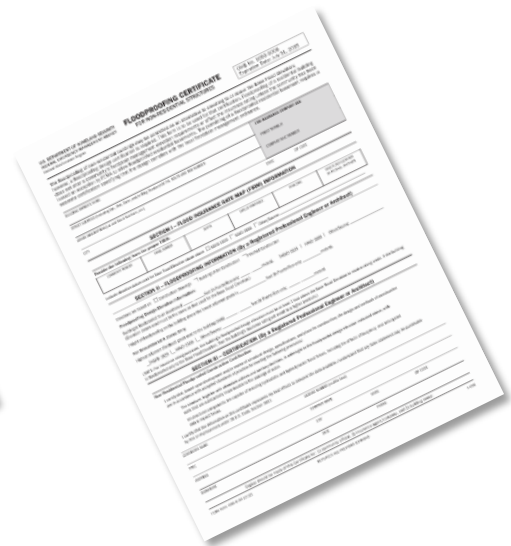
Some communities have noted that the FEMA Elevation Certificate form and the Floodproofing Certificate now in use has an expiration date of July 31, 2015. Please let your land surveyors and others know that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has extended the expiration date to September 30, 2015 while it continues its review of the proposed new forms.

OMB has indicated it will issue additional 30-day extensions for the Elevation Certificate form and the Floodproofing Certificate until the OMB review is done. At that time, the new forms will become available. Until then, the current form is still valid under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Online and downloadable versions of the Elevation Certificate can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/160>.



The image shows a sample of the FEMA Elevation Certificate form (FEMA 1546-1). It is a detailed form with multiple sections for property information, elevation data, and signatures. The form is tilted at an angle.



The image shows a sample of the FEMA Floodproofing Certificate form (FEMA 1546-2). It is a detailed form with multiple sections for property information, floodproofing details, and signatures. The form is tilted at an angle.

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NFIP/ CRS Corner

CRS Recertifications Coming Up

October is the annual recertification deadline for the Community Rating System. In August, ISO/CRS Specialists send each community a detailed list of the activities for which they are receiving CRS credit. Remember that, for most communities, this year's recertification is still based on the 2007 *Coordinator's Manual*. However, those communities that have been visited recently and verified under the 2013 *Coordinator's Manual* will receive a new set of activity statements as part of their annual recertification. Some of the more common trouble spots for communities are discussed below.

- **Annual Reports** Activities 330, 510, and 610 require an annual report. Your customized recertification form will request a report if you have credit for these activities. For Activity 330, under the 2007 *Coordinator's Manual* we will be looking for a report on your outreach program strategy (OPS). Under the 2013 *Coordinator's Manual*, we will be looking for a report on your Program for Public Information (PPI). Both editions of the *Coordinator's Manual* require an annual progress report if you have credit for Activity 510 FMP, Activity 510 RLAA, or Activity 610.
- **Outreach Projects** You may be requested to provide copies of outreach projects or the annual publicity completed during the year for Activities 320, 330, 360, 501 (repetitive loss areas), 540, and 610.
- **Reports** If you have credit under Activity 610, you may be asked to provide a report from the local emergency manager about the annual exercise or drill of the emergency response plan, lessons learned from implementing the plan in an emergency or disaster, and the updated list of critical facilities affected by flooding.

One more tip: Unless the statement on the recertification form (AW-214 under the 2007 *Coordinator's Manual* or CC-213 under the 2013 *Coordinator's Manual*) requires you to attach or provide some type of documentation, please do not attach or provide anything. All you need to do is put your initials next to the activity, signifying that your community is still conducting that particular activity.

Also, check out the webinar "Preparing for the Annual CRS Recertification," which will be held August 18th, August 19th, and September 16th. Visit www.CRSresources.org click on the "training" tab for more information.

If you wish to submit your recertification electronically, please feel free to do so via e-mail with attachments or by submitting information on a CD or USB drive. Just make sure the documents are appropriately marked to correspond with the activities.

The Voice - Increasing Awareness, Encouraging Mitigation Action

The Voice – Increasing Awareness, Encouraging Mitigation Action

FEMA Region 6 has just released the latest issue of our newsletter, *The Voice*, and it is available on our website at http://www.riskmap6.com/documents/resource/TheVoice_Jun2015_Vol11_508.pdf. You can sign up on RiskMAP6.com to receive future issues of *The Voice* newsletter upon publication release.



The June 2015 issue includes information and links related to Substantial Damage and what to do after a flood. We've also included articles on smartphone apps you'll find helpful during hurricane season, some of FEMA's newest posters on earthquake safety, and news on the FEMA Region 6 "Virtual Brown Bag" Webinars, a new online series to help communities create useful GIS products with the flood risk products delivered during a Risk MAP study.

We encourage our readers to share local Mitigation Success stories with us for future issues of *The Voice*. You may now reach us through R6-Mitigation-Outreach@fema.dhs.gov.

For those communities located in designated parishes of declared disasters, we want to remind you of the ways to register for assistance:

Online at <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov>

By calling 800-621-FEMA (3362)

- The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT seven days a week until further notice.
 - A new NFIP Helpline has been added as an option when you call.
 - Multilingual operators are available .
 - Disaster assistance applicants who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY should call 800-462-7585 directly.
 - For those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 800-621-3362.
- By visiting a FEMA Mobile Disaster Recovery Intake Center or state-FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in your area.

The Voice has been in publication since 2009 and previous issues are available at www.RiskMAP6.com.

RiskMAP6.com

"Helping communities understand a complete picture of their natural hazard risk"

PROBLEMS WITH ENCLOSURES

Enclosures are areas created by a crawlspace or solid walls below the base flood elevation. Therefore, the walls of an enclosure are subject to hydrostatic and hydrodynamic forces. Damage to these walls can lead to damage to the entire structure. Depending on the height of the enclosure, people are often tempted to convert enclosures into additional living space or other uses that are subject to flood damage.

NFIP regulations allow certain uses in enclosures below the BFE because they are subject to minimal flood damage. Three uses are allowed in the area below the elevated floor:

- Building access
- Vehicle parking
- Storage of materials with low damage potential

The floodplain regulation requirements can be easier to accept if owners and builders are encouraged to think about the enclosed lower areas as usable space. If a building has to be elevated approximately 5 feet above grade, for example, the owner should be encouraged to go up 8 feet. The lower area could be used for parking and the owner would have an extra 3 feet of flood protection.





However, if the lower area is enclosed, the owner has the tendency to forget about the flood hazard and convert the enclosure to a bedroom or other finished room. This must be prevented. Future misunderstandings can be prevented by keeping thorough permit records, including the owner's signed acknowledgement of these stipulations. A **nonconversion agreement** that is signed by the owner and filed with the deed can prevent a future problem and violation of the minimum standards of the NFIP. An example of a nonconversion agreement statement can be found in the [*Louisiana Floodplain Management Desk Reference*](#). Enforcing restrictions against conversion of enclosed areas below the BFE to habitable space is a problem for many floodplain administrators. Often, homeowners convert these spaces into bedrooms, recreation rooms, or other living areas long after the original permit for construction has been issued, resulting in a noncompliant structure. If the property changes ownership, new residents may claim ignorance of the restrictions. The conversions may be difficult to catch by even the most experienced building inspectors.

The lower area on an elevated building must be floodable—it must be built of flood resistant materials. Finishings such as carpeting, paneling, insulation (both cellulose and fiberglass), and gypsum wallboard (also known as drywall and sheet rock) are not allowed. Utilities that serve the upper level also must be protected from flood damage. Consequently, a water heater or air conditioner cannot be put in such an enclosure unless it is at or above the base flood elevation. Air conditioning units should be suspended from the first floor's floor joists or on a pedestal, at or

LFMA'S SUMMER WORKSHOP

On Friday, July 24, 2015, the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association held its summer workshop in Raceland. Guest speakers from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and Louisiana State University spoke about several up-to-date topics concerning issues facing coastal elevations and water levels for Southeast Louisiana.



LFMA'S FALL WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

AT THE NATCHITOCHES ARTS CENTER

716 SECOND ST. NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

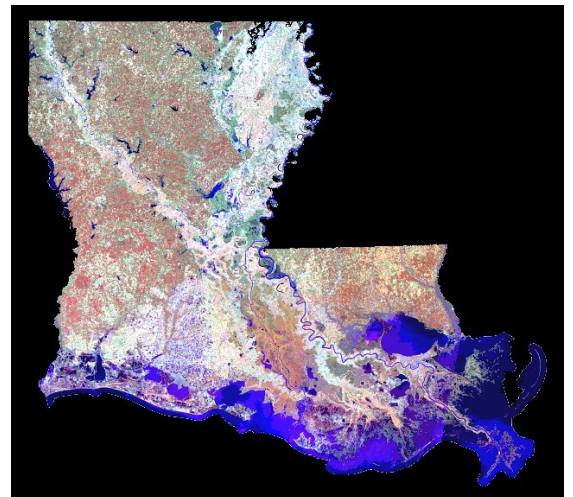
8AM TO NOON

go to www.lfma.org for registration and information

LOCAL TRIVIA

Louisiana has 2,482 islands, covering nearly 1.3 million acres. Nationally, this ranks the state third in total islands and second in total island acreage.

The Wombat: Louisiana Trivia (November 2003)





Jonathan Brazzell and Roger Erickson from NOAA spoke about Coastal Storm Flood & Inundation Forecasting, Resources for the Assessment for Vulnerabilities and Future Risk.

Tim Osborn, NOAA and Clifford Mugnier, LSU spoke about Water Levels, Surge, Subsidence & Coastal Flooding Across Coastal Land Areas.



Michael Michalski from NOAA spoke about the Background on CO-OPS, Tidal Datum Theory, Sea Level Changes, Tidal and Geodetic Datum Relationships.



Our goal is flood loss reduction . . .

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